

AETC News Clips



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30 Oct 01

Express-News: Military

Duty calls math teacher into military uniform

By Edmund S. Tijerina

San Antonio Express-News

Web Posted : 10/30/2001 12:00 AM

As she stood in front of her sixth-grade classroom, explaining the difference between right, acute and obtuse angles, Mary Garcia cautioned her students on their behavior.

"I won't be here, so you need to be nice for Ms. Acosta, who will be taking over my class."

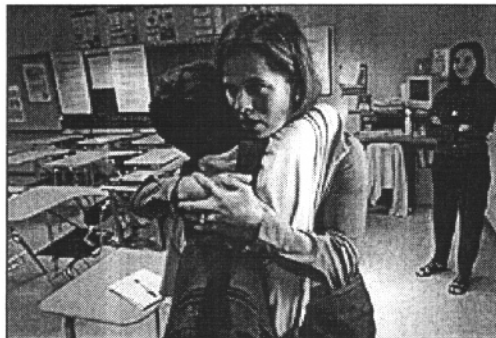
It's not sick leave, nor a vacation. The ancient concept of a citizen-soldier has come very much alive in Garcia's class at Dwight Middle School.

This slight Latina with two children of her own, a ready smile and a firm voice when she needs to use it on her students is a modern example of the Athenian idea.

On Monday, the Army reservist worked her last day as a teacher before shipping off on assignment overseas.

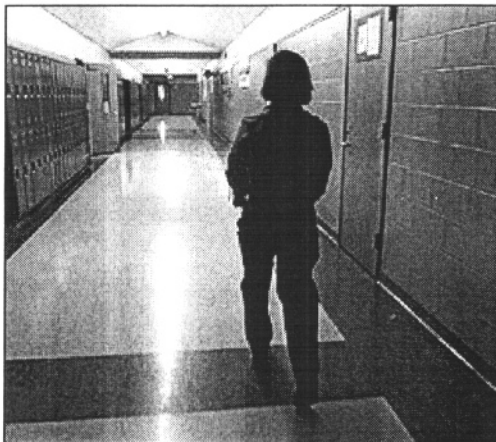
"Everything I am is because of the military," she said. "I got my education because of the military, my leadership skills. Now, the military needs me."

Second Lt. Garcia, 34, is among the thousands of Army, Navy, Air Force or Marine reserve troops who have been ordered to active duty since the Sept. 11 terror attacks.



Dwight Middle School math teacher Mary Garcia gets a hug from Pedro Medina, 12, during her last day on the job on Monday. Garcia is among the many Army reservists being called up in the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. Mary Garcia walks down the hallway during her last day at Dwight Middle School on Monday.

Photos by Jerry Lara/Express-News



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Earlier this month, more than 1,000 reservists with the 433rd Airlift Wing were called to active duty. Among the 433rd is her husband. Also this month, more than 400 Texas National Guardsmen have been assigned to protect 26 airports in the state.

Although the San Antonio Police Department is feeling the effects of departing reservists, it's a different story in schools.

So far, only a handful of reservists have left their jobs with local schools and colleges, and most of them are school police officers, representatives of different institutions say.

Garcia was born in Kerrville and enlisted in the Army straight out of high school in 1985. During her four years of active duty, she went from Fort Dix in New Jersey to Fort Lee in Virginia, to Germany and to Fort Hood in Texas.

For her, the military was her ticket out of a small-town life.

"I went in for the education," she said. "I wanted to go to college, but we didn't know how to pay for it, so I enlisted."

Almost immediately after she left active duty in 1989, she took her GI Bill benefits and enrolled at San Antonio College, then transferred to UTSA and got her bachelor's in 1995.

That year, she started her career as a math teacher at Dwight Middle School in the South San Antonio District.

But for the next month, there's going to be a void at the school, which other teachers will be working to patch, said Principal Thomas Fonseca, who moved to Dwight from Kindred Elementary this year.

"It's very hard," he said. "But it's another challenge we're going to meet, together."

For example, other teachers will absorb some of her classes, while substitute Nancy Acosta will handle the others.

"It's scary and I wish she didn't have to go," said fellow math teacher Georgina Carabajal, who will absorb Garcia's eighth-graders. "But she's going to serve, and nobody's going to stop her."

Other supporting hands belong to her husband and her mother, who will be caring for the children, 3-year-old Brianna and 18-month-old Diego.

"There's no way I could do this if everybody weren't so supportive," she said. "Here at school, my family, my church — everybody is helping to make this work."

For her students, her departure brings current events directly into their classrooms.

"Miss," called out eighth-grader Joshua Martinez, "If you see bin Laden — get him!"

In the meantime, she hopes her students keep up with their studies while she's gone.

Before seventh period, eighth-grader Crystal Rodriguez came up to Garcia and hugged her goodbye.

"What can we do to help?"

"Honey, do what I asked you to do, listen to your teachers and work hard," Garcia replied. "Just be good."

etijerina@express-news.net

10/30/2001



DOONESBURY



BY GARRY TRUDEAU

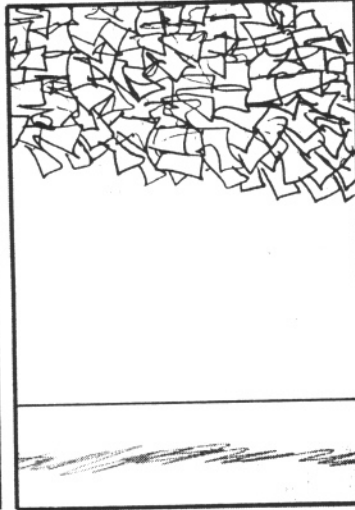
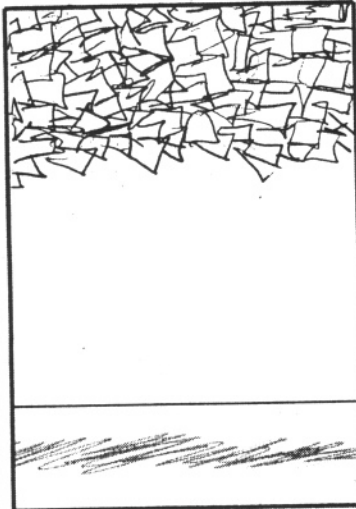
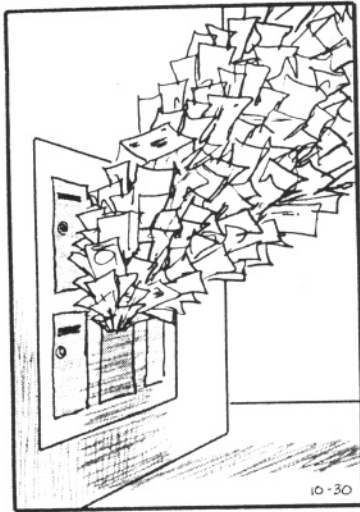
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Nacho Guarache

by Leo Garza



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20 Oct 01

AirForceTimes

5 November 2001

www.airforcetimes.com

GOT A TIP?

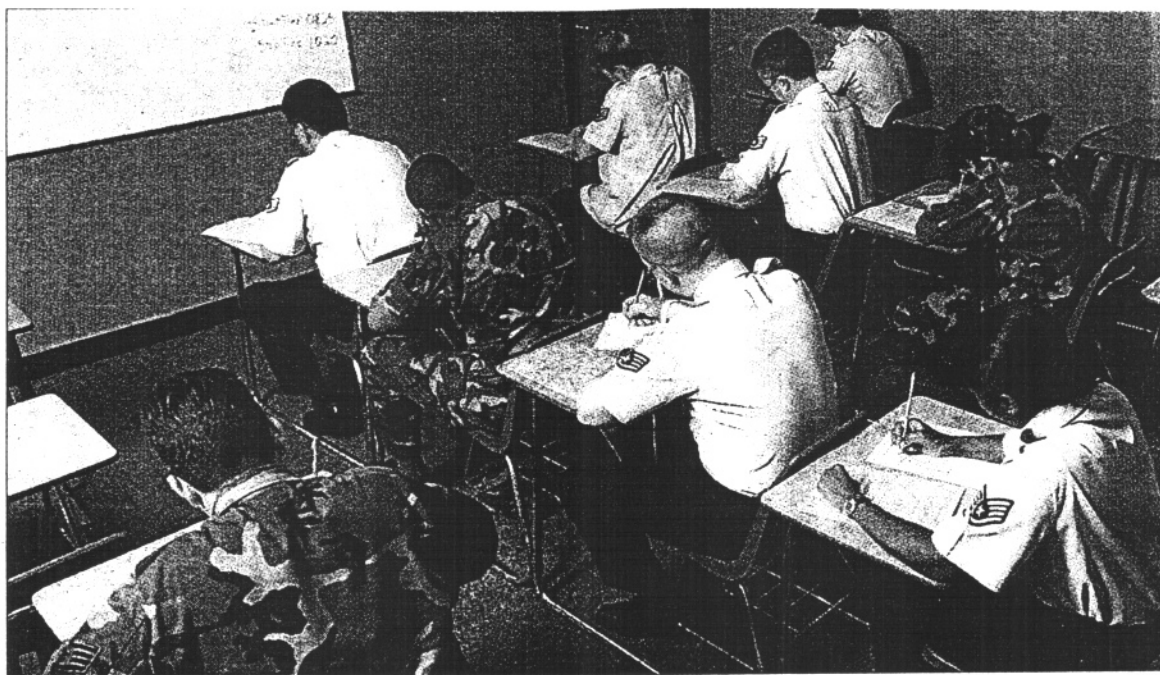
IF YOU HAVE STORY IDEAS,
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EDITORS AT:
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Newslines

THE LATEST NEWS AFFECTING YOU

TESTING the TESTS

Outside firm will audit
enlisted promotion exams



FILE

Airmen take a Weighted Airman Promotion System test. The Air Force has hired a company to perform an audit of the WAPS testing process.

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ISSUE

TESTING the TESTS

Outside firm will audit
enlisted promotion exams

By Rod Hafemeister
TIMES STAFF WRITER

SAN ANTONIO — The Air Force has contracted an independent company to take a top-to-bottom look at the way enlisted promotion tests are done.

The Chauncey Group International will conduct an audit of the promotion testing system. The company is a subsidiary of Educational Testing Service, one of the two companies that conduct college entrance tests.

"We're confident that our promotion system is valid and fair and we know that it is well-accepted by the airmen out there and their supervisors," said Capt. John Thomas, spokesman for the Air Force Personnel Center at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas. "For the last couple of years we have had the thought — and now the money has become available — that it would be a good idea for our own knowledge to know that we are meeting or exceeding industry standards."

"So we decided to ask an outside organization that's disinterested and unbiased to come in and validate for us what we believe to be a very fair and good testing system."

The audit is expected to take about a year, Thomas said, but he was unable to provide many details on how it will be conducted. The Air Force is careful to avoid steering the audit team in any particular direction or asking it to

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According to a release from the Chauncey Group's headquarters in Princeton, N.J., the company "will apply the highly regarded ETS Standards of Quality and Fairness to the four-phase audit."

The standards are detailed in a 92-page document on the ETS Web site, <http://www.ets.org>. In general, they are designed to give auditors a framework against which to measure how well a test or assessment method achieves its goal while remaining fair to those tested.

Guidelines listed in those standards include:

- Obtaining substantive advice and reviews from internal and external sources, including users.

- Establishing procedures to maintain the technical quality and fairness of the product or service.

- Periodically measuring customer satisfaction.

- Providing all test takers with respectful and impartial treatment and appropriate access to information about the assessment and administration process.

ETS' most well-known products are the Scholastic Assessment Test and Graduate Records Exams used by many colleges and universities. The company and its subsidiaries also produce a variety of other educational, professional and occupational assessments.

"We recognize that these are high-stakes tests for the Air Force

and for the candidates, and we understand the importance of auditing them to assure the highest quality and validity," Judith Moore, Chauncey Group president and CEO, said in a news release.

More than questions, answers

Included in the audit is a review of the Specialty Knowledge Test and the Promotion Fitness Exam. Those tests count for 43.5 percent of the points an airman can earn toward promotion under the Weighted Airman Promotion System and generally are the deciding factors in who gets promoted.

This year, more than 86,000 senior airmen, staff sergeants and technical sergeants took one or both of the tests.

Air Force testing experts say the tests are deliberately made difficult, with an intended mean score of 50 out of 100 points each, to better spread out the lists of eligible noncommissioned officers.

Air Force leaders strongly defend the promotion system and its heavy reliance on written tests. Many senior enlisted members say the system is much better than the "who do you know?" system it replaced 30 years ago.

But not all airmen and outside experts agree.

Some airmen argue that they should be allowed to study together — an act strictly forbidden by WAPS but embraced at most professional military training courses. Air Force leaders say restrictions allow them to rank each individual on his own merit.

Outside testing experts also



TESTING the TESTS

... cont'd

have questioned whether written tests are the best way to determine an airman's potential to do the job at the next level.

"Particularly for tasks that involve manual labor, a paper-and-pencil test is not a very good simulation," said Bob Schaeffer, public education director for the National Center for Fair & Open Testing, an organization critical of standardized tests ranging from college exams to employment testing.

"If you want to know if somebody can take a rifle apart, you give him a rifle, not a Scantron sheet and a pencil," he said.

Another critique often aimed at standardized tests is that they often result in minorities getting lower scores than whites.

In July, Air Force Times detailed how heavy reliance on written tests led to a growing gap between whites and minorities, especially blacks, in staff sergeant promotions.

Air Force figures show about a 10 percentage-point difference in promotions for whites and minorities.

Promotion records showed the tests were the deciding factor. Whites averaged 41.7 of the possible 100 points on the PFE, compared to a 40.7 point average for minorities. On the SKT, whites averaged 49.9 while minorities averaged 46.2.

Test experts said the differences most likely were due to the larger percentage of minorities who attend poorer quality schools and receive less training in how to take standardized tests — some-

thing that has plagued schools across the nation.

Air Force leaders acknowledged the gap and pointed to a variety of programs available for airmen to improve themselves, including remedial programs.

It was unclear at press time if the audit will address specifically study restrictions, whether the WAPS system is the best measure for promotion or whether minorities face a disadvantage.

However, the company dedicates an entire chapter of its standards to "help ensure that products and services will be designed, developed and administered in ways that treat people equally and fairly regardless of differences in personal characteristics such as race, ethnicity, gender or disability."

It later states, "Group differences in performance do not necessarily indicate that a product or service is unfair. However, meaningful difference between groups in assessment results should be investigated to be sure they are not caused by construct-irrelevant factors."

Though the Air Force has a lot of confidence in the testing system, Thomas said it doesn't hurt to have someone take a hard look at it and see if there are ways to make it even better.

"I think this should give people more confidence in the testing system because we're inviting people from outside to look at it, not resting on our laurels," Thomas said. "We're looking to improve things that we might not even know need improvement." □



► MONTGOMERY

Volunteers lend helping hands

Volunteers tackled tasks at an elementary school as part of Make a Difference Day

By Ken L. Spear
Montgomery Advertiser

The glow of sunlight through the second-floor window at Peterson Classical Grammar Magnet School tells the story.

Look out the window of Peterson, a public school which sits at the border of Maxwell-Gunter Air Force Base, and a modern Maxwell Elementary is in view. Two worlds apart.

Built in 1956, Peterson houses a three-year-old literature-based magnet program that embraces teaching the basics.



But the building, once scheduled for

demolition, has long suffered from neglect: deteriorating walls covered with dingy yellow paint, peeling plaster and, in one window, a hollow sill where sand tumbles when tapped.

Maj. Andy Schlacter locked these images into photographs when he visited the school Sept. 11, the day of the terrorist attacks.

"It was depressing," Schlacter recalled Saturday on Make A Difference Day as faculty members, their spouses and children painted three wings of the school.

"We can't make a difference in New York," he said, "but we can make a difference right here."

All over Montgomery, Elmore and Autauga counties, citizens worked to make a difference. The projects in many cases have become year-round.



Photos by Karen S. Doerr Sta

At Peterson Classical Grammar Magnet School, Guidance Counselor Linda Fiedler, left, and Lt. Col. Matt Durham discuss repairs while Kelly Caffrey paints Saturday. Volunteers from Maxwell-Gunter Air Force Base did work at the school as part of Make a Difference Day.

MAXWELL AFB, AL
Montgomery Advertiser, 28 Oct. 01, 1B

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The school, which serves children in the Riverside Heights housing project, was slated to be torn down in four years. That was in the name of progress for the city's riverfront development.

"Tearing down this school had been on the books, but scrapped," said Linda Fiedler, guidance counselor at Peterson. "That's why nothing had been done in so long."

Over the summer, Peterson was salvaged. Since 1999, the school had been forgotten until Maxwell's Air Command and Staff College volunteered to give the

school a fresh coat of paint. "They've turned this into a bright, cheery learning environment," Fiedler said.

That work now includes removing brittle plaster throughout the building and donating funds — starting with a \$1,235 check — to buy uniforms for 50 of the 370 Peterson students who can't afford them.

A few feet away, the laughter of children filled the air at the Riverside Heights Community Center Saturday. The children, ranging between the ages of 3 and 10, had books — fresh,



Peering through 3-D glasses, Kathryn Mangum, left, and Nancy Stewart, right, read to Justin Richardson Saturday at Riverside Heights Community Center as part of Make a Difference Day.

School Page 4B

School: Volunteers make a difference

From Page 1B

new ones. And volunteers from The Montgomery Academy and Auburn University Montgomery spent time reading to them. They also read to each other.

A weekly writing workshop is an outgrowth of previous Make A Difference Day activities. Shaka Ellis, a 14-year-old athlete at Southawn Middle School, is also a budding poet who plans to attend the writing workshops.

And he only stopped by to "see what was happening." "It's not good enough to make a difference in one day,"

said Nancy Anderson, a professor of English and director of AUM's Clifton Taubert Initiative. "You've got to keep at it."

The Taubert Initiative, named after the author of "Once Upon A Time When We Were Colored," is a community outreach effort in which volunteers read to resident children at government housing communities.

"This is something we don't regularly do," said Nancy Stewart, a ninth-grader at The Montgomery Academy. "This is an opportunity we should take advantage of. We have every other day to do teen-age stuff."

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

- Groups across Montgomery registered their plans for Make a Difference Day on the usaweekend.com Web site. No other cities in the tri-county region registered projects. Groups and activities included:
- **Family Advocacy Community and Educational Services**, also known as FACES Inc., hosted a teen summit that included a workshop on AIDS and abstinence as well as Operation Bless a Child to help homeless children and their families.
- **William "Gd" Franklin Boys and Girls Club** teamed with
- Montgomery Area United Way to build a playground for the kids who attend the club.
- **An unidentified group** took underprivileged children to the Magic City Classic football game in Birmingham.
- **Dannely Elementary School** performed numerous projects during the week, culminating with parents constructing an environmental area and recording books on tape.

On the Web: www.usaweekend.com

Arizona Republic
Valley & State Section
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THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

VALLEY & STATE

Study looks for economic impact of

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2001 B9

Arizona's military bases

Associated Press

YUMA — A study now under way is expected to indicate that Arizona's military bases have a significant economic impact statewide, not just within their neighboring cities.

Allan Maguire, a Phoenix economist and consultant who is heading up the study, told a

League of Arizona Cities and Towns seminar Thursday that preliminary figures indicate an economic impact of \$6 billion.

Glendale Mayor Elaine M. Scruggs, who hosted the seminar, said people don't realize how strongly the state's economy and its bases are interconnected.

The entire state would be affected if Luke Air Force Base were closed or cut back, Scruggs said.

Maguire said communities that are home to military bases, such as Fort Huachuca in Sierra Vista, Davis Monthan Air Force Base in Tucson and the Marine Corps Air Station and Yuma Proving Ground in

Yuma, have long struggled with the perception that anything bad that happens to a base is only a problem to the community in which the base is located.

That's just not true, Maguire said. The study says that a base in one community may contract for services from a company in another community on

the other side of the state.

"It isn't just a local impact," Maguire said.

He said what surprised him the most when he began the study was that the military was virtually invisible in Arizona's economic impact figures.

Sometimes data about the military are even omitted when economic figures are

collected around the state, Maguire said.

"I think Arizona fundamentally fails to recognize the military as a core industry," Maguire said. "This is a massively underrecognized asset."

The military bases and the Arizona National Guard represent the equivalent of 50,000 jobs, he said.

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Altus AFB OK Newsclips

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Altus AFB 97th AMW commander leaving for Turkey

Brig.Gen. Quentin L. Peterson's days as commander of the 97th Air Mobility Wing are fast dwindling. He will relinquish command to Col. Mark R. Zamzow Tuesday and then head off to Turkey.

In his new assignment, General Peterson will wear a number of hats, he said, but the two most important will be chief of the Office of Defense Cooperation for Turkey, and as the senior military representative in Turkey, he will be a member of the Ambassador's Country Team at the embassy.

In the meantime, he's getting ready to leave here. In thinking over his 16 months of commanding the 97th AMW, he said the most rewarding and enjoyable part has been working with people - "to see our NCOs, our airmen and our officers doing the job every day to make things better and finding ways to improve processes."

"In the process of doing that, we've also had the opportunity to recognize them for their performance, and I've been as proud as I can be."

He added that the large number of awards won by wing individuals and units at the Air

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-- Brig.Gen. Quentin L. Peterson **"**

Force and Air Education and Training Command level "demonstrate a great job, how professional people perform every day - not just doing their jobs, but going well above and beyond what the job requires."

The general also complimented the community for what he called "outstanding cooperation and support."

"It's mutual support," he said. "The community works very hard with us to make sure we do the best we can to continue the training operation and ensure its success. At the same time, we work very hard to respect the needs of the community in which we live and work."

"I believe the support we get is as good as any you'll find across the United States Air Force - I find it hard to believe that it's any better anywhere else."



Brig.Gen. Quentin L. Peterson

General Peterson said he is extremely proud of the way Team Altus worked together on the stand down of the 57th Airlift Squadron and the retirement of the C-141.

"I think the stand down of the 57th and its C-141

Please see *PETERSON, page 6

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training operation was difficult and sad in many regards," he said. "We watched a mission that had been at Altus for some 32 years go away. While it was bittersweet, I couldn't have been prouder of the way our wing stood up and greeted the many former members of that unit at the ceremony, including the previous leadership and general officers, both retired and active duty who had been stationed at Altus."

General Peterson credited many individuals for the excellence of the ceremony, saying it was truly a wing effort.

Another point of pride: Preparing for the Operational Readiness Inspection.

"That preparation was really astonishing, from the internal inspections to external inspections - I just couldn't be prouder of the detail with which that was accomplished. We prepared well, we were ready for the inspectors," he said.

"Because of the events of Sept. 11, it made absolute sense to delay the ORI for a while, but when it finally comes, the wing will absolutely dazzle the IG and earn that outstanding that I believe it deserves."

And third: The wing's response to the disasters at Washington and New York City. "We deployed 13 medical folks to give support, and although they were not used, they were prepared and ready when they were sent out."

The commander added the wing had both airlift and air refueling crews that also supported the disaster.

"So again, although we did not get to demonstrate that capability to the IG, we demonstrated fully to our commanders, our leadership at AETC, that we are ready. We're prepared to do our job, and we continue to do that today."

Like most senior military members, General Peterson has advice for junior members.

First, the young officers.

"They should never be afraid of getting involved in areas that they're not familiar with. There are a lot of important areas out there that they might be assigned to, like planning, programming and budgeting, acquisition, to name just a few," he said. "It might be a little uncomfortable, out of their comfort zone in the sense of not being directly related to flying operations. What's critical to the operation of our Air Force is the growing rank and responsibility, the understanding of those other areas that really serve them in good stead and allow them to be better officers and better leaders."

He leaves the following advice to both young officers and enlisted members.

General Peterson said they "should be professional, be experts and get

depth in whatever their career field might be."

"Then," he added, "at the appropriate time, we expect them to begin to broaden - they're better able to serve as a result of a broader experience, and exposure as well."

The general said young people should look for opportunities to lead and mentor as well. "Each of us who's been around for a while can look back and see faces in our mind's eye of people who made the difference in terms of where we ended up. I encourage each officer and enlisted to seek to be that mentor for somebody else."

One of General Peterson's personal mentors, he said, is retired Gen. Ronald Fogleman, former Air Force chief of staff.

"I had the privilege of working as an executive officer for General Fogleman when he was commander of the Air Mobility Command and U.S. TRANSCOM. I learned a great deal working with him and watching him."

General Peterson cited two aspects that affected him the most. The first was that General Fogleman believed in taking care of the troops. "That was absolutely number one on his priority list, and he lived it every day."

Second, he said, General Fogleman operated in an open, fact-based way when making deci-

sions. "He listened to everyone who had a say, looked at the facts and then made a decision."

General Peterson leaves with this message:

"I thank the community so much for their continuing superb support. I

believe the men and women of Altus truly do give the absolute best community support that one could find.

"And, most importantly, to the men and women of Team Altus, remember that what you do every day - training the world's best mobility crews for the world's best Air Force -- is absolutely critical to the security of our nation. I challenge you to continue to keep up the great work and maintain the discipline and professionalism that I've seen on a daily basis. I challenge you to continue safe mission accomplishment and taking care of people as your highest priority.

"Finally, as a reminder, individually, I would challenge people to take care of themselves - physically, mentally and spiritually - to take care of their families and finally to take care of their Air Force family."



Altus AFB OK Newsclips

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Altus AFB change of command ceremony set

ALTUS AFB-Major General Quentin L. Peterson will turn over command of the 97th Air Mobility Command, Altus Air Force Base, in a ceremony at 10 a.m., Tuesday, Oct. 30.

General Peterson will depart for a new assignment in Turkey.

The incoming commander is Colonel Mark R. Zamzow, currently commander of the 374th Airlift Wing, Yokota, Japan.

For more information or to attend the ceremony, please contact Gwen Brewer, (580) 481-5967.

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Altus AFB OK Newsclips

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Airman sentenced to 16 months over drug charges

ALTUS AFB-Senior Airman Brian C. Crocker pleaded guilty Oct. 3 to divers uses of ecstasy, methamphetamines, marijuana, Xanax, one attempted use of LSD, along with one distribution of methamphetamines and one charge of incapacitation for duty due to wrongful prior indulgence.

The accused pleaded guilty to two uses of ecstasy, seven uses of methamphetamines, 30 uses of marijuana and two uses of Xanax.

The military judge, Lt.Col. Israel Wilner, sentenced Airman Crocker to be reduced to the lowest enlisted grade, to forfeit all pay and allowances, to be confined for 16 months, and to be discharged with a bad conduct discharge.

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Altus AFB OK Newsclips

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Farmer appreciation luncheon kicks off Farm City Week activities

With the theme "Farming, Flying and Community - the Pillars of Southwest Oklahoma," tomorrow marks the beginning of Farm City Week in Altus. It is being sponsored by the Altus Chamber of Commerce to highlight what agriculture means to our local economy, to inform everyone of the various agriculture crops grown and produced in Jackson County and southwest Oklahoma, to show the importance of agriculture to our way of life, and last but not least, to show appreciation to all those

involved in farming, ranching and other agricultural pursuits. Agriculture is a multi-million dollar facet of our economy.

Chairman of the Agri-Business Action Group, Mark Nichols, has announced activities will include a farmer's appreciation luncheon on Oct. 31 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Jackson County Expo Center. Cost is \$8 and will include a program by OSU Extension Center director Gary Strickland and displays of llamas and Dexter cattle will be in place. Yates

Implement Company will have new equipment. Tractor driving will be offered to participants.

A farm tour is set following the luncheon to visit a farming operation, watch cotton being picked, touring a gin and the Altus Peanut Company. Those attending will also get a chance to drive a tractor.

The Farm City Week Banquet is Nov. 1, 6:30 p.m., in the Altus High School

Cafetorium. Entertainment will be provided by the "Not So Famous Sons". Tickets are \$16 each. A patriotic theme will be used this year. Food with a Flair will cater all events for this year's luncheons and banquet.

An Orientation flight at Altus Air Force Base will be held Nov. 2 beginning at 8 a.m. Those wishing to attend need to call the Altus Chamber to sign up. You will need to provide your birth date and social security number.

For more information on tickets or touring slots, contact the Altus Chamber at 482-0210.

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Altus AFB OK Newsclips

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Commander at Altus draws post in Turkey

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SEE ALTUS, 2A

ALTUS: Commander headed for Turkey

CONTINUED FROM 1A

ber of the Ambassador's Country Team at the embassy. In the meantime, he's getting ready to leave Altus. In thinking over his 16 months of commanding the 97th AMW, he said the most rewarding and enjoyable part has been working with people — "to see our NCOs, our airmen and our officers doing the job every day to make things better and finding ways to improve processes."

"In the process of doing that, we've also had the opportunity to recognize them for their performance, and I've been as proud as I can be."

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The general also complimented the community for what he called "outstanding cooperation and support."

"I believe the support we get is as good as any you'll find across the United States Air Force — I find it hard to believe that it's any better anywhere else."

Another point of pride: The wing's response to the disasters at Washington and New York City. "We deployed 13 medical folks to give support, and although they were not used, they were prepared and ready when they were sent out."

The commander added the wing had both airlift and air refueling crews that also supported the disaster.

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"And, most importantly, to the men and women of Team



PHOTO COURTESY ALTUS AIR FORCE BASE

Outgoing 97th Air Mobility Wing commander Brig. Gen. Quentin L. Peterson is seen on horseback greeting people in this file photo.

Altus, remember that what you do every day — training the world's best mobility crews for the world's best Air Force — is absolutely critical to the security of our nation. I challenge you to continue to keep up the great work and maintain the discipline and professionalism that I've seen on a daily basis. I challenge

you to continue safe mission accomplishment and taking care of people as your highest priority.

"Finally, as a reminder, individually, I would challenge people to take care of themselves — physically, mentally and spiritually — to take care of their families and finally to take care of their Air Force family."

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